

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to air as "news" an anti-Kerry film based on faulty information and which is highly prejudiced and politically motivated is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Last night, 10/14, on "Nightline" Ted Koppel reported on a portion of the controversy. "Nightline" sent investigators to Vietnam to the location of the gunfight. These isolated, unschooled peasants, with no ulterior motives, related what they saw, in stark contradiction to John O'Neil's fabrication. Now, this is news. So if Sinclair Broadcasting was truly concerned about presenting this story as "News", one would expect them to be ethically bound to present "Nightline's" findings.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies run by people with a political agenda who, instead of maintaining objectivity, want to sway others to their cause have the opportunity to control large portions of the media, we lose our democracy.

This is a prime and ugly example of the need for media de-consolidation.